

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Hall, for closing.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The question before the body is a question of the tax provision. The amendment that is before us is an amendment that would have us adopt 16 percent definite profit tax. Currently in the committee amendments, through the amendment that we adopted yesterday, Senator Morehead's amendment, we have a 20 percent definite profit tax. If you vote to adopt my amendment, we reduce that tax by 4 percent of the definite profit. I would urge the body to adopt this amendment. Senator Higgins is correct. We have not adopted the committee amendments. Even if we adopt my amendment, the committee amendments have not been adopted and the opportunity is there to amend them further down the line. I would hope that we would adopt my amendment so that we are a little closer to Senator Higgins' goal. I would also remind you that the issue of 16 percent of definite profit equates to approximately 4 percent on the low end and 5 1/2, roughly, on the high end with regard to the gross percentage of a tax as we have in the current system. But at this time I think it is wise of the body to adopt this to the committee amendment because, even if we do want to come back and amend the tax in some other form, at least it will be closer to that lower percentage that is the wishes of Senator Higgins and, from what I hear, some others, but at this time I would urge you to adopt the Hall amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the second part of the divided Hall amendment. Those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. A record vote has been requested. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on page 1726 of the Legislative Journal.) 34 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment to the committee amendments I have is by Senator Hall.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, I would request that amendment be withdrawn.